

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 324

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Don Clifft of Hardeman County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Don Clifft; and

WHEREAS, Don Clifft was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Hardeman County, Mr. Clifft was the son of Earnest Roland and Tressie Pauline Hunt Clifft; he was a 1961 graduate of Bolivar Central High School, where he played on the football team, and he was a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity at Lambuth College, from which he received his bachelor's degree in 1966. He also pursued hours toward a master's degree at Memphis State University; and

WHEREAS, Don Clifft served with acumen and alacrity as a teacher and principal at Whiteville High School and Whiteville Elementary School, in which positions he earned the respect of his students, teachers, and staff alike; and

WHEREAS, drawn to a life of public service, Mr. Clifft was elected mayor of Hardeman County in 1986 for the first of three consecutive terms, and he was again elected in 2002 for a fourth term in office; during his tenure, a number of improvements were made to benefit the citizens of Hardeman County, including the remodeling of the county courthouse and the opening of a new public library, the Hardeman County Community Health Center, and a new county health department, which was named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, chairman of the Southwest Human Resources Agency, he was president of the Southwest Developmental District and served on the Quinco Board of Directors; he was also

an active member of the Tennessee County Services Association and the Association of County Mayors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clifft was a devout member of Bolivar Cumberland Presbyterian Church; he was previously a member of Bolivar Presbyterian Church, which he served faithfully for many years as an elder and clerk of the sessions; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Don Clifft enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of forty-three years, Carla Stafford Clifft; and

WHEREAS, Don Clifft leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Don Clifft, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Clifft.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.